

B. Claims

Please amend claims 48-53, 63-66, 73, 74, 79 and 80 as follows. A complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. - 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting bone growth at a fracture site, ~~the method~~ comprising the step of:

administering to a subject with a fractured bone a therapeutically effective amount of a drug selected from the group consisting of at least one bisphosphonate, wherein said drug contains an amount of said at least one bisphosphonate effective to promote bone growth at a fracture site; and
~~providing a vibratory stimulus to the fractured bone.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the drug is administered to the subject as a single dose.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein the single dose of drug is administered at an early stage of treatment of the fractured bone.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the mode of administration is as a perioperative intravenous infusion.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the mode of administration is oral.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the mode of administration is transdermal.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48 further comprising providing a vibratory stimulus to the fractured bone.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the vibratory stimulus is provided by ultrasound stimulation or vibration stimulation.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the vibratory stimulus includes periodically providing a vibratory stimulus at the resonant frequency of the bone.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55 wherein the vibratory stimulus includes periodically providing a vibratory stimulus at the resonant frequency of the bone.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56 wherein the resonant frequency is calculated as a function of the bone's vibratory response to the vibratory stimulus.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the vibratory stimulus is provided at a late stage in the treatment of the fractured bone.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the step of providing a vibratory stimulus is concurrent with the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of the drug.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 60 wherein the vibratory stimulus is provided and the therapeutically effective amount of the drug is administered at an early stage in the treatment of a fractured bone.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting new bone formation at a fracture site in a subject suffering from delayed union of a fracture, ~~the method~~ comprising the step of:

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a drug selected from the group consisting of at least one bisphosphonate, wherein said drug

contains an amount of said at least one bisphosphonate effective to promote new bone formation at a fracture site, and

~~providing a vibratory stimulus to the fractured bone.~~

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one bisphosphonate is administered parenterally as a single dose at or near the time of surgery.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein a further parenteral dose of the at least one bisphosphonate is administered about four to six weeks after the initial dose.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein further oral doses of the at least one bisphosphonate are administered in a daily or second daily regimen commencing about four to six weeks after the initial dose for a period of about two months or until sufficient new bone has been formed.

67. - 72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the drug is Zoledronate.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the drug is a combination of two or more bisphosphonates.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of drug promotes new bone formation at the fracture site.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the drug is Zoledronate.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54 wherein the drug is a combination of two or more bisphosphonates.

78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the drug is Zoledronate.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the drug is a combination of two or more bisphosphonates.

81. - 83. (Cancelled)